UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/640
9 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan of 6 August 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

In order to avert senseless bloodshed and economic destruction, and confirming the determination of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to achieve a peaceful settlement of the problem in and around Tajikistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its extreme anxiety at the escalation of armed confrontation in the Pamir region and areas adjacent to the Tajik-Afghan border.

In addition to attempts to impose terror, refusal to comply with the terms of the cease-fire agreement and other hostile acts, preparations by the opposing side to increase its armed presence in the areas affected by the military confrontation have been observed in recent days.

Thus, according to reliable information in our possession, a substantial build-up of opposition forces and mercenaries from other countries, numbering some 900, has been taking place in the area bordering Tajikistan, in the Yazgulem, Bandj and Kalayi-Khumb sectors. The nature of this build-up suggests that these forces have been brought together to carry out plans to break through the state frontier with the aim of linking up with armed units of the opposition operating within Tajikistan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers these plans of the opposition leadership aimed at escalating the armed confrontation to be a blatant repudiation of the results of the peaceful inter-Tajik negotiations and notes that the existence of such plans reflects either the insincerity of the opposition leadership or its inability to control the actions of armed groups loyal to it.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is authorized to state that these provocations along the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the Republic of Tajikistan, while not affecting the determination of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to pursue peaceful negotiations, can seriously complicate this vitally important process and force the Government to reconsider in part the commitments stemming from the agreement reached with the opposition.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs appeals to the responsibility of the forces seeking an escalation of armed confrontation and, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, warns that in the event of an exacerbation of the situation, the Government will take strong countermeasures using all the means at its disposal.

Dushanbe, 6 August 1996